

1. A method of adapting asset delivery within a heterogeneous information distribution system, comprising the steps of:

5 determining, for each set top terminal (STT) requesting a session initiation, a capability level of said STT and a capability level of the distribution network;

selecting, from a plurality of available assets, those assets appropriate to said capability level of said STT; and

10 providing said selected assets in response to STT communications indicative of a need for said assets.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said capability level is defined in terms of at least one of a graphics processing capability, a command processing
15 capability, a video capability, an audio processing capability and a bandwidth capability.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said assets are stored in an asset data base, each of said stored assets being associated with at least one STT
20 capability level.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein said step of selecting comprises the step of selecting, from said asset data base, an asset having associated with it the capability level of the STT requiring said asset.

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5. The method of claim 1, wherein said assets comprise navigation assets including video information, graphics information, and control information.

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6. The method of claim 5, wherein an initial navigation asset provided to a set top terminal comprises control information indicative of related navigation assets within said asset data base having associated with them a capability level of said STT receiving said initial navigation asset.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein said navigation assets comprise applets including said video information, graphic information and control information, said applets being stored on a server and being provided to a set top terminal in response to user interaction with control information at said set top terminal indicative of a need for said stored applets.

8. In an interactive information distribution system including information provider equipment coupled to subscriber equipment via a communications network, a method for adapting provided information to a set top terminal comprising the steps of:

determining, during a session initiation, a capability level of said STT, said determination being made by comparing STT configuration information to a data base of STT capability information;

providing, to said STT in response to an STT request for information, requested information adapted to said determined capability level of said STT;

each of said set top terminals having a common video information processing architecture, one of a plurality of control architectures, and one of a plurality of graphics processing architectures.

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9. The interactive information distribution system of claim 8 wherein navigator assets are optimized, either in real time or before storage, to each of the possible STT capability levels.

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